AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims shall replace all previous listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Withdrawn) A method for straight through processing of trades by electronically exchanging data related to financial transactions between a plurality of price providers which provide price quotes for trading financial instruments and execute trades and a plurality of customers of the plurality of price providers through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein at least two of the plurality of electronic portals are adapted to use one of multiple different standardized portal-specific data formats, and wherein a particular customer may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the customer has access to communicate with the plurality of price providers, the method comprising:

linking each of the plurality of electronic portals and the plurality of price providers to a central transit point through which data from all of the plurality of electronic portals is transmitted;

receiving customer data from each of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the customer data is received in a first standardized portal-specific format corresponding to the particular portal of the plurality of electronic portals through which the customer data is received;

normalizing the received, standardized data from the first standardized portal-specific format in which the data is received into a second standardized format, if the first standardized portal-specific format is different from the second standardized format; and

transmitting the normalized data through the central transit point to at least one of the plurality of price providers.

2.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the central transit point is at one of a central router, at least one of the plurality of price providers, or a credit intermediary.

3.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the data comprises at least one of a request
for a price quote, an instruction to execute a trade, a recap of details of the trade, or a free-format
text-based conversation.

4.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of normalizing the data further
comprises converting the data from a portal-specific communication protocol in which the data is
received into a standardized communication protocol.

5.   (Cancelled).

6.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the data comprises
providing the data to at least one of the plurality of price providers in the second standardized
format.

7.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving further data from at
least one of the plurality of price providers that is directed to a particular portal of the plurality of
electronic portals, and translating the further data from the second standardized format into a
portal-specific format used by the particular portal through which the further data is to be sent, if
the portal-specific format is different from the second standardized format.

8.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the data comprises a customer request by
a customer for a price quote and the further data comprises a price quote sent in response to the
request, and wherein the method further comprises transmitting the price quote to the customer
via the portal from which the price quote request was received.

9.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the price quote is provided by one of a
trader at least one of the plurality of price providers or an automated pricing engine at least one
of the plurality of price providers for automatically providing the price quotes.

10.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting an instruction to proceed with a trade from the customer to at least one of the plurality of price providers in response to the price quote, whereupon the respective price provider fulfills the trade at the price quote.

11.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a customer who has executed a trade an electronic confirmation via the portal through which the customer data was received, the electronic confirmation including details of the trade.

12.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 11, further comprising receiving the trade details at one of the plurality of price providers.

13.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a second request for a second price quote from a second customer that is sent through a second portal of the plurality of electronic portals in a third standardized portal-specific format that is different from the first standardized portal-specific format;

normalizing the second request from the third standardized portal-specific format in which it is received into the second standardized format;

transmitting the second request to at least one of the plurality of price providers in the second standardized format;

transmitting a second price quote from the one of the plurality of price providers to the second customer who requested the second price quote through the second portal; and

transmitting an instruction from the first customer to the price provider providing the first price quote to proceed with a trade, whereupon the price provider providing the first price quote fulfills the trade at the first price quote.

14.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 13, further comprising withdrawing the second price quote by the price provider providing the second price quote by one of manually entering an instruction to withdraw the second price quote or providing a system for automatically withdrawing the second price quote at a particular point based on specific criteria.

15.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the normalized data at one of the plurality of price providers; and

simultaneously displaying on a single display at the respective price provider the received

data exchanged with at least two of the plurality of electronic portals.

16.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 15, further comprising using the data on the display

to determine at the respective price provider whether to make a price quote based on criteria

comprising at least one of exposure of the respective price provider to market risk, a credit risk

associated with the second customer, a trade position of the respective price provider, or a

marketplace-specific factor.

17.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 15, wherein the data from the at least two electronic

portals are simultaneously displayed in separate windows on the display but with a substantially

identical graphical user interface for each of the windows.

18.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 15, wherein each portal utilizes a respective portal-

specific graphical user interface, the method further comprising displaying the data from the at

least two electronic portals simultaneously in separate windows on the display using the

respective graphical user portal-specific interfaces, and providing a set of uniform commands for

interacting with the at least two electronic portals despite the different graphical user interfaces.

19.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 1, wherein a gateway corresponding to each of the

plurality of electronic portals is connected between each of the plurality of electronic portals and

the central transit point, and wherein the step of normalizing the data is performed at the gateway

corresponding to the portal from which the data originated.

20.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a central router

comprising gateway at the central router corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic

portals, the normalizing of data being performed at each respective gateway.

21.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a gateway at each of the plurality of price providers corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic portals, the normalizing of data being performed at the respective gateways.

22.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising linking a credit intermediary of a customer to the central transit point.

23.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of price providers comprises a bank, a financial institution, an exchange, or any other trading entity, wherein the customer comprises a commercial entity that wishes to obtain a price quote, and wherein the financial instrument for which the price quote is requested comprises at least one of securities, commodities, options, futures, currency, or any other tradable item.

24.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of electronic portals is connected to a customer by one of a private network, a public network, or the Internet.

25.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of price providers are connected to a Central Router by one of a private network, a public network, or the Internet.

26.   (Withdrawn) A method for straight through processing of trades by electronically exchanging data related to financial transactions between a plurality of price providers which provide price quotes for trading financial instruments and execute trades and a plurality of customers of the price provider through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein at least two of the plurality of electronic portals are adapted to use one of multiple different portal-specific data formats, and wherein a particular customer of the plurality of customers may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the particular customer has access to communicate with the price provider, the method comprising:

        linking each of the plurality of electronic portals and the plurality of price providers to a central transit point through which the data is transmitted;

receiving data from at least one of the plurality of price providers to be sent to a particular customer through a particular portal of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the data is received in a first standardized format;

translating the received data from the first standardized format into a second standardized portal-specific format, if the second standardized portal-specific format is different from the first standardized format; and

transmitting the data in the second standardized portal-specific format through the central transit point to the particular customer.

27.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, wherein the central transit point is at one of the central router, at least one of the plurality of price providers, or a credit intermediary.

28.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, wherein the data comprises at least one of a price quote, a recap of details of the trade, or a free-format text-based conversation.

29.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, wherein the step of translating the data further comprises converting the data from a standardized communication protocol in which the data is received into a portal-specific communication protocol.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, wherein the data comprises a price quote, the method further comprising receiving an instruction from the particular customer to proceed with the trade in response to the price quote, and electronically sending the particular customer details of the trade through the particular portal after a trade is executed.

32.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, further comprising:
displaying the received data exchanged with at least two of the plurality of electronic portals on a single display substantially simultaneously.

33.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 32, further comprising using the data on the display to determine by at least one of the plurality of price providers whether to make a price quote based on criteria comprising at least one of exposure of the respective price provider to market risk, a credit risk associated with the second customer, a trade position of the respective price provider, or a marketplace-specific factor.

34.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 32, wherein the data from the at least two customers are displayed substantially simultaneously in separate windows on the display but with a substantially identical graphical user interface for each of the windows.

35.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 32, wherein each portal utilizes a respective portal-specific graphical user interface, and wherein the method further comprises displaying the data from the at least two electronic portals simultaneously in separate windows on the display using the respective graphical user portal-specific interfaces, and providing a set of uniform commands for interacting with the at least two electronic portals despite the different graphical user interfaces.

36.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, wherein the data comprises a price quote that is provided by one of a trader at least one of the plurality of price providers or an automated pricing engine at the respective price provider for providing the price quotes.

37.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a gateway at each of the plurality of price providers corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic portals, the translation of data being performed at the respective gateways for each of the plurality of electronic portals.

38.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a central router comprising a gateway at the central router corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic portals, the translation of data being performed at each respective gateway.

39.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein a gateway corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic portals is connected between each of the plurality of electronic portals and the central transit point, and wherein the step of translation of the data is performed at the respective gateway for the portal from which the data originated.

40.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising linking a credit intermediary of a customer to the central transit point.

41.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the plurality of price providers comprises at least one of a bank, a financial institution, an exchange, or any other trading entity, wherein the particular customer comprises a commercial entity that wishes to obtain a price quote, and wherein the financial instrument for which the price quote is requested comprises at least one of securities, commodities, options, futures, currency, or any other tradable item.

42.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of electronic portals is connected to a customer by one of a private network, a public network, or the Internet.

43.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the plurality of price providers are connected to a Central Router by one of a private network, a public network, or the Internet.

44.   (Currently amended) A system for electronically exchanging data related to financial transactions, the system comprising:

~~between a plurality of price providers which provides price quotes for trading financial instruments and executes trades and a plurality of customers of the price provider through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein at least two of the plurality of electronic portals are adapted to use one of multiple different standardized portal-specific data formats, and wherein a particular customer may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the customer has access to communicate with the price provider, the system comprising:~~

a plurality of internal systems of a plurality of price providers including a plurality of application program interfaces, each of the plurality of application program interfaces in communication with a respective internal computer system of a respective price provider to provide normalized data to the respective internal computer system, each of said plurality of price providers providing price quotes for trading financial instruments and executing trades for a plurality of customers;

a plurality of electronic portals, at least two of said plurality of electronic portals being adapted to use one of multiple different portal-specific data formats to allow a particular customer to use any of said plurality of electronic portals to which said customer has access to communicate with said internal computer systems of any of said plurality of price providers;

a plurality of gateways, each gateway being linked to a corresponding one of [[the]] said plurality of electronic portals, wherein [[the]] said plurality of gateways translate data received from any of [[the]] said plurality of electronic portals from a respective first ~~standardized~~ portal-specific format to a second ~~standardized~~ normalized format, and for translating data received in the second ~~standardized~~ normalized format from [[the]] said price provider to the respective first ~~standardized~~ portal-specific format of the particular portal of [[the]] said plurality of electronic portals to which the data is routed and

a central transit point that links [[the] said plurality of gateways to said internal computer systems of each of [[the]] said plurality of price ~~provider~~ providers and through which the normalized data is transmitted to [[the]] said plurality of price ~~provider~~ providers.

45.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the data that is exchanged between the plurality of price provider providers and the customers comprises at least one of a customer request for a price quote for a trade, a price quote provided by at least one of the plurality of the price provider providers, a message relating to negotiation of a price for a trade between the customer and at least one of the plurality of the price provider providers, an instruction to complete the trade, a trade detail data, or free-format text-based conversation.

46.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, further comprising a display at at least one of the plurality of the price provider providers for displaying substantially simultaneously the data exchanged with at least two of the electronic portals.

47.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the display comprises a graphical user interface for displaying data from the at least two electronic portals substantially simultaneously in separate windows on the display, at least two of the windows having a substantially identical user interface.

48.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein each of the plurality of electronic portals utilizes a respective portal-specific graphical user interface, wherein the system displays the data from the at least two electronic portals substantially simultaneously in separate windows on the display using the respective graphical user portal-specific interfaces, and wherein the system further comprises a set of uniform commands for interacting with the at least two electronic portals despite the different graphical user interfaces.

49.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the plurality of further comprising an application program interfaces present for presenting data in the [[a]] normalized format to [[an]] the internal computer system of at least one of the plurality of the price provider providers.

50.   (Original) The system of claim 49, wherein the internal computer system comprises an automated pricing engine that automatically generates a price quote in response to a request.

51.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, further comprising an application program
interface for presenting data in the [[a]] normalized format to an internal computer system of a
credit intermediary that extends credit to a customer.

52.   (Currently amended) A system for electronically exchanging data related to financial
transactions, the system comprising:
~~between a plurality of price providers which provide price quotes for trading financial
instruments and execute trades and a plurality of customers of the plurality of price providers
through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein at least two of the plurality of electronic portals
are adapted to use multiple different standardized portal-specific data formats, and wherein a
particular customer may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the customer has
access to communicate with the plurality of price providers, the system comprising:~~
        a plurality of electronic portals, at least two of said plurality of electronic portals being
adapted to use multiple different portal-specific data formats to allow a particular customer to
use any of said plurality of electronic portals to which said customer has access to communicate
with a first price provider or a second price provider, said first and second price providers
providing price quotes for trading financial instruments and executing trades for a plurality of
customers of said first and second price providers;
        a first internal computer system of said first price provider in communication with a first
application program interface;
        a first gateway located at [[a]] said first price provider, the first gateway adapted to
communicate with each of [[the]] said plurality of electronic portals using the ~~standardized~~
respective portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal of [[the]] said plurality of
electronic portals and with said first internal computer system of said first price provider using
data in a normalized format of said first price provider, wherein [[the]] said first gateway
translates data received in the ~~standardized~~ respective portal-specific format of each respective
electronic portal to ~~a standardized~~ the normalized format of [[the]] said first price provider and
translates data received in the ~~standardized~~ normalized format of [[the]] said first price provider
to the ~~standardized~~ portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to which the data
from [[the]] said first price provider is routed; [[and]]

a second internal computer system of said second price provider including a second application program interface; and

a second gateway located at [[a]] said second price provider, the second gateway adapted to communicate with each of [[the]] said plurality of electronic portals using the standardized respective portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal of [[the]] said plurality of electronic portals and with said second internal computer system of said second price provider using data in a normalized format of said second price provider, wherein the second gateway translates data received in the standardized respective portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to a standardized the normalized format of [[the]] said second price provider and translates data received in the standardized normalized format of [[the]] said second price provider to the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to which the data from [[the]] said second price provider is routed.

53.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 52, further comprising:

a third application program interface in communication with a third internal computer system of a credit intermediary;

a third gateway located at [[a]] the credit intermediary, the third gateway adapted to communicate with each of the plurality of electronic portals using the standardized respective portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the third gateway translates data received in the standardized respective portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to a standardized normalized format of the credit intermediary and translates data received in the standardized normalized format of the credit intermediary to the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to which the data from the credit intermediary is routed.

54.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the third gateway is adapted to transmit data received from the first price provider, the second price provider, or both to the credit intermediary.

55.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 54, wherein the third gateway translates data received in the ~~standardized~~ <u>normalized</u> format of the first price provider or data received in the ~~standardized~~ <u>normalized</u> format of the second price provider to the ~~standardized~~ <u>normalized</u> format of the credit intermediary.

56.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the third gateway is adapted to transmit data received from the credit intermediary to the first price provider, the second price provider or both.

57.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 56, wherein the third gateway translates data received in the ~~standardized~~ <u>normalized</u> format of the credit intermediary into the respective ~~standardized~~ <u>normalized</u> format of the price provider to which the data is routed.